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Message Text

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43
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

SAJ-01 IO-12 RSR-01 AID-20 /115 W
---------- 064561
R 151012 X MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8576
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG 3360

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 2824

EO 11652/ GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TW, CH, MG
SUBJ: ROC PRESS GIVES HEAVY PLAY TO ITS PROTEST ACTIVITIES
IN WASHINGTON

1. SUMMARY. MEDIA HAVE GIVEN HEAVY PLAY TO ROC PROTEST ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF PRC LIAISON OFFICE. SINCE MANY PEOPLE HERE, INCLUDING SOME SENIOR LEADERS, MUST HAVE REALIZED COUNTERPRODUCTIVE POTENTIAL OF THESE ROC EFFORTS, WE ARE SURPRISED THAT AUTHORITIES RAN THE RISKS INVOLVED. WE DOUBT PEOPLE ON TAIWAN HAVE BEEN OVERLY IMPRESSED WITH GESTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. TAIPEI PRESS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE MAY 12, 14 AND 15 TO PROTEST ACTIVITIES BY OVERSEAS CHINESE ORGANIZATIONS IN US AGAINST ESTABLISHMENT OF PRC LIAISON OFFICE. COVERAGE ATTEMPTED TO CONVEY IMPRESSION OF ENTHUSIASTIC AND EFFECTIVE DEMONSTRATIONS HIGHLIGHTED BY PRESENTATION OF PROTEST TO WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL FOR DELIVERY TO PRESIDENT NIXON. HOWEVER EVEN SEMI- INTELLIGEN READERS COULD DISCERN THAT DEMONSTRATION WAS ORGANIZED RATHER THAN SPONTANEOUS AND ATTRACTED AN EMBARRASSINGLY SMALL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS.
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3. IN PARALLEL VEIN LIEN HO PAO MAY 13 FEATURED STORY
BY ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT ON AMBASSADOR SHEN' S
PROTEST TO DEPARTMENT REGARDING FAILURE OF PRESIDENT' S
STATE OF WORLD MESSAGE TO REFER TO ROC BY ITS " PROPER NAME."
REPORT ALLEGED THAT SOURCE OF INFORMATION WAS STATE
DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL. OTHER PAPERS HAVE EITHER MAINTAINED
USUAL POLICY OF DOWNPLAYING SUCH UNPLEASANT NEWS OR HAVE
REFERRED TO ISSUE IN MORE GENERAL FORM.

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW WHO WAS SPIRIT BEHIND ROC' S
ILL- ADVISED PUBLIC PROTEST EFFORT. A LARGE NUMBER OF
PEOPLE HERE, INCLUDING MANY LEADERS OF CABINET RANK, FULLY
RECOGNIZE THAT SUCH PROTEST EFFORTS RISK DAMAGE IN US- ROC
RELATIONS AND AT BEST TEND TO UNDERSCORE ROC' S RELATIVE
WEAKNESS IN VYING FOR ATTENTION OF OVERSEAS CHINESE AND
AMERICAN PUBLIC. THERE ARE OF COURSE OTHER OFFICIALS, ALSO
INCLUDING SOME AT HIGH LEVELS, WHO FAIL TO SEE THESE
ISSUES SO CLEARLY AND SEEM UNABLE TO SHAKE THEIR OLD
POLITICAL WARFARE TECHNIQUES. IT IS LIKELY THAT DECISION
TO ORGANIZE PROTEST WAS HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY DESIRE TO
DEMONSTRATE TO TAIWAN DOMESTIC POPULATION THE CONTINUED LOYALTY OF
OVERSEAS CHINESE IN US. OVERSEAS CHINESE AFFAIRS AND
MANIPULATION OF PUBLIC OPINION ARE AREAS WHERE OLD FACES
TEND TO PREDOMINATE AND OLD HABITS DIE HARD.
MCCONAUGHY

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TAIPEI02824
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MCCONAUGHY
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730546/aaaajhgi.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980217
Subject: ROC PRESS GIVES HEAVY PLAY TO ITS PROTEST ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON
TAGS: PFOR, CH, MG, TW, PFOR
To: EA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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